



# stockbridge

## Primary and Pre-school



Newsletter 18

4 March 2022

### One world

We talk to the children all of the time about our planet; they've developed their own response to the climate challenge and are often intrigued when learning about new religions or countries or times in history.

Events of the last few weeks have shown how interconnected we are and made our world a little smaller. From Storm Eunice and the devastation that caused both in our own community and farther afield, to the desperate events in the Ukraine, the importance of collaboration and resilience has never been so close to home.

We were overwhelmed with the generosity from so many this week for our Ukrainian collection - a great example of positivity and collaboration. Many thanks to Sarah Dunn and her team of willing helpers in collecting and shifting it all to a collection point.

The children have taken an active part in class assemblies on the conflict so that they could share their knowledge, thoughts, worries and questions at an age appropriate level. They have turned it into something positive by making postcards and leaflets of love and hope to send to refugees along with the donations received yesterday. We're also contributing to the Houghton group of donations with our messages in the hope that it may offer a small glimmer of sunshine for some.

The children have themselves come up with some ideas of how they could help support children in and fleeing from Ukraine which the school council will lead on in future weeks. Our future is in our children's hands and I am proud of our children's empathy and response this week.

Kind regards,

Emma Jefferies  
Headteacher

### How to talk to your child about conflict

Our response, as adults, to these events is what will form the bedrock of our children's opinions of, and response to, this conflict. Often unwittingly and unconsciously we are sending out messages in the conversations had about war, invasion, Russians, Ukrainians, Europeans - these will all be reflected back in the talk on the playground and will either appease children's worries or fuel them. Some helpful hints below are intended as a guide and a prompt to help your child, no matter what age, to make sense of the war.

Like many other headteachers and teachers out there, we've been looking at each other's ideas for how to talk to our children about conflict and I thought the following 'nuggets' of information might help as the conflict deepens. They are courtesy of @dr.martha.psychologist who you might have heard on BBC London news. I have copied her posts here as they very much fit with the THRIVE approach we take in school and are helpful ways to align with your children's curiosities.

**When children ask questions about the War what they are really asking is:**

"Can you listen?"  
"Is how I feel ok?"  
"Am I safe?"

**Children need you to listen**

**Dive in with your curiosity. Spend more time listening than talking.**

- "This question is important. Tell me more..."
- "Where did you hear about that?"
- "What do you think that means?"

**Remember:**

You do not need to have all the answers. Offering your child a safe space to have their emotions and fears contained is enough.

**Children need to know how they feel is ok**

**Allow space for your child's feelings and share yours too if it feels safe to do so. This is validating to your child**

- "Whatever you feel is ok"
- "It makes sense that you feel like that"
- "I also feel scared/worried/sad. I'm with you"

**Children need to know they are safe**

**Remind your child of their safety in the 'here & now' and help them focus on how you keep them safe**

- "You are safe. I am here"
- "Where we live is very far away from the war. Want to see on a map?"
- "So many countries and people are working hard to end the war"

Just some of the books we're using to support children's understanding:

- My name's not refugee
- The arrival
- Who are refugees & migrants?  
What made them leave their home?
- The day war came
- Here I am
- Tomorrow

Things to do:

- Look at a map together - be factual, what is happening?
- Read a news article from First News or listen to Newsround (TOGETHER) so that you can help them understand what they're hearing.
- Look for good news too - we love [The Happy Newspaper](#)

# Staffing

We have been a growing school which is now at full capacity and we are in the midst of recruiting new staff. Interviews for a new admin assistant are taking place next week which we are very excited about!

I have written to parents of children in Redbridge class today to let them know that Miss Garrett, Year 1/2's class teacher will sadly be leaving us at Easter. We are already recruiting and have a plan ready to go on her replacement so I will be in touch with further details hopefully by the time the next newsletter is out in a fortnight.

We are also looking for:

- A superb LSA to add to our team, initially to work in Year 2 & 3.

Job to be advertised this week on Indeed & Hampshire school vacancies website.

# Parent Teacher Consultations

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March

9am – 12noon for Lower School & Sprat & Winkle

1pm – 4pm for Upper School

Face to face meetings in school – these should have been booked online to secure your time slot. We will be meeting inside – if you would like to wear a face mask please do. If you wear one, staff will also wear one otherwise, we will proceed without.

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March

4pm – 7pm for all ONLINE

These meetings should also have been booked in advance and will be conducted online through SchoolCloud. If you're booked in a slot, you'll have an email with the link – please click this about 5mins before your appointment to log in and check sound and video as well as sufficient connection.

Please do get in touch with Mrs Spayes if you have any issues before the event.

## REGULAR UPDATES



Keeping you up to date with regular goings on in school

## Safeguarding

Our e-safety learning in school is robust and rigorous and delivered frequently – always done on the first Monday after any half term so that children have at least 6 full sessions of e-safety as a 'drip feed' throughout the year. They also revisit it each week in their four weekly cycle of early morning lessons so that habits are slowly and gradually formed. Our aim is this teaching is never to scare the children but to make them aware of the pitfalls of online working and, most importantly, how to avoid them. Here's a helpful guide to social media apps your child may be keen to access.

## Reading books

Mrs Cooper and I spent the majority of Tuesday's INSET day undertaking an overhaul of our reading books and are still completing this. Children in lower school and Sprat & Winkle will NOT be having books this weekend. We are still finalizing the new system and will be training staff in it early next week with the aim of every child in lower school & Sprat & Winkle having a book by Wednesday.

There will be a parent information session for all children in Years R, 1 & 2 this term, date will be announced in the next newsletter.

Most social media apps are 13+ (WhatsApp is 16+) but, as we are aware some children use them regularly, we wanted to share some important settings you might want to check to keep children safe online.

### Instagram

**PRIVATE ACCOUNT:** when this is on, only followers can see your posts and stories and you have to approve followers (recommended: on)

**COMMENTS, TAGS, MENTIONS, STORY:** allows you to control who can tag you, comment on your posts, mention you in their story and control your story audience

You can also restrict, block or report a user by clicking on their profile and selecting the three dots in the top right.

You can also remove a follower using this method.

### WhatsApp

**PROFILE PHOTO AND STATUS:** You can change who can see a profile photo and status (recommended: my contacts)

**GROUPS:** allows you to stop a contact being able to add you to groups (recommended for when a friend adds you without permission)

**BLOCKED:** can add a contact to a blocked list so they can't message you.

You can also block or report a contact/number by clicking on the chat with them, clicking on their number/name at the top then scrolling down!

### Snapchat

**CONTACT:** decide who can message you and send you snaps (recommended: my friends)

**VIEW MY STORY:** restrict who can see your story (recommended: my friends)

**GHOST MODE:** if this isn't on, contacts can see your location on a map (recommended: on)

You can also block or report a user by locating their contact, tapping and holding their name and clicking more



## In other news...



### COVID update

As I'm sure you are all aware, COVID rules changed on 22 February in England which will have an impact for all of us.

This is our current arrangements, in line with the COVID regulations nationally:

- We will not be wearing face masks in school unless a visitor or member of staff chooses to. When meeting with this person, we will adopt face masks if they would like us to.
- Our staff have all agreed to maintain a regular testing regime for now. This means twice weekly tests.
- We are following the advice for anyone with symptoms of COVID to remain at home until these symptoms have passed and they feel well again before returning to school; this applies to staff as well as children.
- If your child is displaying signs of COVID, we will be calling you and asking you to pick them up immediately.
- Although it is no longer a legal requirement to stay at home if you have COVID, if you insist on bringing your child to pre-school or school when they have symptoms, we may take the decision to refuse your child attending, if, in our reasonable judgement, they would be putting others in the setting at risk. We ask therefore that you take a sensible decision that avoids a conflict, and keep your child at home until they are well enough to return to school.

Of course, we will keep up our hygiene routines, ventilation, sanitization and other protective measures and hope that we have no more outbreaks!

Thanks for your understanding.

### School Council Ukrainian refugee response

After our assemblies this week, the donation of goods for the refugees and children's growing awareness of the conflict, they felt they would like to do something proactive. Please find below a message from our school council team:

**We really want to help children and grown ups in Ukraine and have lots of ideas on how to help raise money for them to have things they need.**

**Please support us by:**

**Dressing in blue or yellow (or a combination of both) on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March and donating £2 per child.**

**We'll have a bake sale the following Friday at break time and lunch time – any donations would be welcomed for this please. Cakes will be for sale for 30p.**

### First trip in a minibus!

Sprat & Winkle had their first trip out in a minibus this week in preparation for a longer trip to Windsor castle later in the term. They were fabulous!! There were a few new things to learn about travelling on the bus and they behaved brilliantly and had an excellent time at the Hawk Conservancy too!



### GROUPS WORKING PARTY THIS WEEKEND ON SATURDAY 9AM – 11AM

We would really love to get a handle on our wildlife area, especially after the storms, so please do come and join us for as much time as you can give during the hours above. If you have loppers, secateurs, a shovel or waders, please bring them!

#### Jobs to be done:

Trim all willow – it needs a haircut! - Clear the pondweed - re-lay paths (we have gravel to shift) - trim back ivy  
Clear the area around the pond and scrub the jetty to make safe - strim back nettles - sort the fire pit area with new logs and edging - clear den making area - set in posts & attach panels for our outdoor toilet - general trimming & weeding - a scrub down of our cooking tripod grill